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## Currents (November 10, 2014)

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Faculty Commons Workshop on Student Mental Health On Thursday, November 13, Faculty Commons will begin hosting a series explaining what members of the faculty need to know when responding to the mental health needs of their students.

Participants will gain an understanding and awareness of college mental health topics and issues, including best practices for helping a student in crisis. Confidentiality, faculty responsibilities, and specific university resources will also be covered.

- Session 1: 12-1:30 p.m., Thursday, November 13, Faculty Commons, 312 Glickman Library.
- Sessions 2-4: Coming during spring 2015.

See "[Student Mental Health and College Success](#)" for more information.

USM Bookstores Need WinterSession and Spring Book Orders All USM and Law faculty and academic department support staff should begin sending book orders in now. If you will be using same book in the spring that was used this fall, inform the Bookstores by December 5.

If you want students to purchase materials online rather than through the Bookstores, send this information, which also will be posted on the Bookstores website.

Contacts for submitting orders:

- [Amy Hagberg](#), 780-4633
- [Kerry Herrick](#), 780-5157
- [Lyn Philbrick](#), for LAC, 753-6521

Please call or email your orders to these people, or place orders online at [USM Bookstores](#). Look for "Faculty Requisition" under "Quick links."

Any questions about pricing, whether old editions of texts are available, the textbook rental program or the digital eTextbook option, contact [Colleen White](#), associate director USM Bookstores, at 780-4634.

All New Students Must Take Online Training To comply with federal law, the University of Maine System required all new students who matriculated during the summer and fall of 2014, and all future students, to take online training about sexual harassment and assault, domestic violence, and stalking. Returning students also are encouraged to participate.

All university employees also are required to take a similar training by December 15. Information can be found on your MaineStreet home screen and MyUSM portal.

Students who are upset by the content are encouraged to contact the [Dean of Students](#) office at 780-5242. Employees upset by the content should contact [Sara Hellstedt](#) in Human Resources at 228-8305.

PLA May Give Students Credit for Professional Knowledge Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) may be able to give USM students credit for military training, professional or volunteer experience, apprenticeships, workplace certifications, and languages.

Through PLA, students can arrange to take standardized exams or participate in the Academic Portfolio Assessment Program and Credential Review Process.

If you know of any student who might benefit from PLA assessments, direct them to [Prior Learning Assessment](#), or have them contact [Kate Mitchell](#), 780-4663.

Students who receive credit for prior learning experience are more likely to continue their studies and earn their degrees.

## USM Short Takes

- An [Office of Marketing](#) workshop on **How to Write Marketing Copy** will take place noon-1 p.m., Wednesday, November 19, in 427 Wishcamper. Ann Swardlick, a professional copywriter and longtime USM volunteer will be on hand to discuss the basics of writing marketing copy. This workshop is perfect for those who have to keep their CMS pages up to date and create flyers for USM events or academic programs. Email Director of Marketing [Tracy St. Pierre](#) if you plan to attend.
- A [Vigil of Lights Memorial](#) event will take place from 6-7 p.m., Tuesday, November 11, in Longfellow Park, between Noyes, Longfellow and Oakdale Streets. This memorial is designed to give survivors, families, responders, neighbors, friends, and the USM community a place to gather, connect, grieve and find hope. Spiritual leaders from Temple Beth El, Trinity Episcopal Church, Woodfords Congregational Church and HopeGateWay will be on hand. FMI, contact Carol Schiller at 772-3243 or

210-8781.

See USM's [Update on Fire—How You Can Help](#) for more information about this and other efforts.

- [University Health and Counseling Services](#) still has flu vaccine available. Contact 780-5411 to schedule an appointment today.

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